1. Describe the stasis in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

The play opens up on a late summer day in 1986, at the Wasaychigan Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island in Ontario. The first character we meet is Pelajia, and right after we meet her we meet her sister Philomena. They are on Pelajia’s roof fixing shingles, and Pelajia is talking about how she is unhappy on the Reservation and wants to move to Toronto. It sets up the play by immediately showing us the women’s discontent with their lives, so now the viewers know that something about this discontent will spur on the subsequent events in the story.  
  
2. What is the intrusion?

The intrusion is the moment when Annie comes and tells Philomena and Pelajia about the World’s Biggest Bingo, and both women realize that this might be their only chance to better their lives- the intrusion sets up a goal between all of the women.   
  
3. What is the unique factor?

This is the day that the women find out that the Biggest Bingo in the World is real, and they make a plan to attend and participate in the bingo.

4. What is the dramatic question that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will the women be able to better their lives?  
  
5. Provide an illustration of the two kinds of exposition that the play has in it.

Emily at one point tells Annie about her time in San Francisco with her Rez Sisters- this is the moment we get some insight into who Emily is, and how she got to where she is. Most of her character motivation stems from the night she saw her lover killed by a truck. Another example that comes to mind, is the scene where Zhaboonigan is talking to Nanabush and she tells the bird/god about when she was molested. There is this air of innocence, like she doesn’t know why it is wrong, but she knows it is. This exposition gives us insight into how Zhaboonigan ended up where she is.  
  
6. Identify the most theatrical moment in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

I think that the one of the most theatrical moment is the scene where the women begin to riot. Everyone wants something and it’s the moment where we see a weird dynamic between the women- one where they all seem to hate each other and at the same time they are all familiar with one another and make up a type of family. I think this scene also shows the viewers just how much pent up rage these women have from being stifled and stuck on this reservation for their whole lives. I mean, these women are in their 50’s and I think the riot scene just shows how close to a metaphorical precipice these women are. The other, and theatrical moment, even more theatrical than the first, is the scene at the World’s Largest Bingo. The women freak out and start attacking the Bingo Master and the bingo balls, and while they are doing this the Bingo Master waltzes with Marie-Adele until he turns into Nanabush and takes her into the spirit world.

7. List some of the themes of the play.

One theme that seems to pop up several times is the theme of male violence towards the women on the reservation. Another theme this play conveys, is the white washing of the Native Americans on these plantations.

8. What does the chief character want and what are some obstacles that stand in the way of her getting what she wants?

I think there are multiple chief characters who’s wants all amount to the same thing; to better their lives. The chief characters in this play are Annie, Marie-Adele, Pelajia, and Philomena. Pelajia wants to get off of the Reservation and move to Toronto where she can be closer to her son. Philomena wants to win the bingo so that she can buy herself a new toilet. Marie-Adele has cancer and she is going with them to the bingo so that she can make it to her doctor’s appointment- she wants to make sure her family is taken care of since she has 14 children and a husband who is always working. Annie wants to move closer to her daughter and her daughter’s husband. All of their obstacles are similar as well since they are all attempting to achieve similar goals through the same means. Money was the biggest obstacle, but they overcome that by all running various odd jobs until they’ve saved enough. Another obstacle is transportation, which they overcome by borrowing a van- however, the van blows a tire on the way to the bingo and they almost don’t make it. In the end they all pull together and overcome this obstacle as well.

9. Describe some possible images in the play and how does the title help us understand the play.

The most vivid image that comes to mind for me, is the scene where Zhaboonigan speaks to Nanabush about her experiences with some white men. She describes what they did to her, where they touched her, and as she describes this she also compliments Nanabush and pets her white feathers. The other immediate image that comes to mind is the scene where the women begin fundraising. It’s a flurry of activity, and we see each woman working towards there communal financial goal.

10. Briefly define the family relationships that are examined in the play.

Most of the family relationships described here are the relationship among sisters. Annie and Marie-Adele are full sisters, but they are also the half sisters of Pelajia and Philomena (who are also full sisters). It also makes references to the relationship between husband and wife on the Reservation. It makes references multiple times to the women being with drunk men, absent men, violent men, and cheating men.